THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Countries where Air India have traffic rights to operate and are not at present operating are indicated at the enclosed statement. (*See* below).

(c) to (e) Indian Airlines can operate to foreign Countries only if they are designated as an Indian carrier in the relevant bilateral air services agreement. Wherever such designation is available, Air India and Indian Airlines are co-ordinating with each other to ensure optimum utilization of their capacity. Indian Airlines are already operation their services to Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka which are not presently airlinked by Air India in spite of having traffic rights. However, efforts are also made to designate Indian Airlines to more countries subject to operational constraints of their aircraft.

Statement

Countries where Air India are having Traffic rights but are not Operating

1. Australia
2. Austria
3. Bangladesh
4. Belgium
5. Bhutan
6. Bulgaria
7. Burma (Myanmar)
8. China
9. Czechoslovakia
10. Egypt
11. Ethopia
12. Fiji
13. Finland
14. Ghana
15. Hungary
16. Iran
17. Iraq
18. Ireland
19. Israel
20. Jordan
21. Kazakhtan
22. Lebanon
23. Lesotho
24. Nepal
25. Netherland
26. Nigeria
27. Philippines
28. Poland
29. Romania
30. Seychelles
31. South Korea
32. Spain
33. Sri Lanka
34. Syria
35. Tajikistan
36. Turkey
37. Turkmenistan
38. Ukraine
39. Uzbekistan
40. Vietnam
41. Yemen (North)
42. Yemen (South)
43. Yugoslavia
44. Zimbabwe

Catering in Air India

2327. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India plans to restructure catering services; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Improvement of catering service is an ongoing process and the following changes have already been introduced on Air India flights:—

(i) Welcome drink of fresh fruit in first class (for passengers boarding the flight at Bombay).

(ii) Chocolates in presentation box first and executive class passengers.

(iii) Indian Mithai after meals in first class.

(iv) 'Sake' served for Japanese passengers, on the India — Japan sector.

To improve the catering on board further, menu compositions are being worked out in consultation with renowned Chefs.

विभिन्न विमान कंपनियों के कारगो विमान

2328. **श्री गोविन्दराव आदिक :** क्या नागर विमानन और पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि एयर इंडिया, इंडियन एयरलाइन्स तथा अन्य किसी निजी विमान कम्पनियों के पास कोई कारगो विमान नहीं है ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि इससे भारतीय निर्यातकों को या तो विदेशी कम्पनियों पर निर्भर होना पड़ता है अथवा समुद्री मार्ग का सहारा लेना पड़ता है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार निर्यात को बढ़ावा देने के लिए भविष्य में कारगो विमान सेवा शुरू करने पर विचार कर रही है ;

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

नागर विमानन और पर्यटन मंत्री (श्री गुलाम नबी आजाद) : (क) से (ङ) एयर इंडिया, इंडियन एयरलाइन्स तथा एयर टैक्सी प्रचालक कोई कारगो विमान नहीं लेते । तथापि एयर इंडिया ने दो कारगो विमान एक.-आई.एल.-76एफ. तथा एक डी.सी.-8/73 एफ. पट्टे पर लिए हैं। और भारत/यू.एस.ए./भारत तथा भारत यूरोप सैक्टरों पर नियमित मालवाही सेवायें प्रचालित करता है । सीमित कारगो क्षमता एयर इंडिया की अनुसूचित यात्री सेवाओं पर विभिन्न गंतव्य स्थानों के लिए भी प्रदान की जाती हैं । कारगो के लिए भारतीय विदेशी एयरलाइनों द्वारा मुक्त गगन नीति के तहत पर्याप्त कारगो क्षमता भी प्रदान की जा रही है । इस लिए सरकार द्वारा किसी भी नई कारगो सेवा को आरम्भ करने की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है ।

Demand for Air route from Darjeeling

2329. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council has asked the Central Government for permission for opening up air route for a small aircraft upto Darjeeling; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) No such request has been received by D.G.C.A. who is the competent authority to issue such approval.

Development of Tourism in West Bengal

2330. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will he Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the schemes submitted by West Bengal to the Central Government for the development of tourism in the State during the last three years;

(b) what are the scheme approved by the Central Government; and

(c) what amount of funds was released for the execution of such scheme during the period?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD); (a) to (c) A statement showing the schemes submited by the Government of West Bengal which were approved and sanctioned in the last three years for the development of tourism in the State, alongwith funds released for each schemes is appended.